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Perros

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Perros

Cover Page Footnote

This article is from an earlier iteration of *Diálogo* which had the subtitle "A Bilingual Journal." The publication is now titled "Diálogo: An Interdisciplinary Studies Journal."

Perros

Or the one my sister came upon,
camping along the banks
of the river that named him, red

bandana around his snowy neck
the day—from the top of the stairs—
mom coaxes Yuba in. He mentions his:

the first de raza alemana, he says
and I'm almost charmed by the voice—
telling of how he'd tie his German

shepherd to a pole, escort
her to church: Plaza Santo
Domingo flanked by the park, kiosk

beside the roasting beef—pleasant
olor de carne asada wafting
over to the bench after mass

where they talked—she mostly:
her sewing, her trips to Panama
in search of wholesale fabrics...

—I try to imagine it: Managua
in the fifties, around the time
my father's plane lifts off, touches

down, sending for her months later,
big with my sister, as I also try
to imagine him

on the other end of the line—in his
sixties, portly, sugar
in his blood, a touch of something

on his breath as he speaks
of the Sacramento
River—pole&gear, sixpack,

Rocky and Comet slinking behind
—but the car's busted now, he says
basting in gravel

in Corning. He gets to bed
past three, watching Cristina,
the Tuesday Night Fights—sunk

in a beat-up armchair:
replay of that memorable bout,
Aaron Pryor delivering a flurry of shots

to the head, Alexis Arguello absorbing them...
During the phonecall
we talk dogs. He had three,

we had two—something
I suppose, in common;
this talk of ours

a first.

by Francisco Aragón

Francisco Aragón is the author of *Puerta del Sol* (Bilingual Press, 2004). His anthology publications include *Inventions of Farewell: A Book of Elegies* (Norton), *American Diaspora: Poetry of Displacement* (University of Iowa Press), and *Under the Fifth Sun: Latino Literature from California* (Heyday Books). His poems have appeared in various publications, including *Luna*, *Puerto de Sol*, and *Terra Incognita*—a bilingual journal edited out of Madrid and New York. He is the founding editor and publisher of Momotombo Press, which promotes emerging Latino writers. Currently a Fellow at the Institute for Latino Studies at Notre Dame. Contact him at: editor@momotombopress.com

Road Home, art by Elizabeth Erazo Baez. www.BaezFineArts.com

